

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9820

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJ: UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. MAY 9 "NEW STRAITS TIMES" (NST) REPORTS THAT THERE ARE AT LEAST 15 NOMINATIONS FOR THREE ELECTED UNITED MALAYS' NATIONAL ORGANIZATION (UMNO) VICE PRESIDENCIES (HEADS OF UMNO YOUTH AND LADIES UMNO ARE EX-OFFICIO VICE PRESIDENTS), AND MORE THAN 100 CANDIDATES FOR TWENTY MEMBER UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL, VOTING WILL TAKE PLACE ON JUNE 21 DURING UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE IN KL. NST STORY LISTS FOLLOWING CANDIDATES FOR VP POSTS: INCUMBENTS AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER GHAFAR BABA, AND PETRONAS CHAIRMAN TENGKU RAZALEIGH; AS WELL AS EDUCATION MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR, TAN SRI SYED NASIR, HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER TAN SRI GHAZALI SHAFIE, TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER DATUK HAMZAH, INFORMATION AND SPECIAL FUNCTIONS (FOREIGN AFFAIRS) MINISTER TENGKU RITHAUDDEEN, NEGRI SEMBILAN MENTERI BESAR (CHIEF MINISTER) MANSOR OTHMAN, PERAK MENTERI BESAR TAN SRI GHAZALI JAWI, TAN SRI SYED JAAFAR ALBAR, AND AMBASSADOR TO THE US KHIR JOHARI (KHIR HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE IS WITHDRAWING FROM THE VICE PRESIDENTIAL RACE).

2. NST ALSO LISTS FOLLOWING INCUMBENTS WHO ARE RUNNING FOR RE-
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ELECTION TO SUPREME COUNCIL: PRIMARY INDUSTRIES MINISTER DATO

MUSA HITAM; DEPUTY AGRIC AND RURAL DEV MINISTER HAJI MUSTAPHA
JABAR; DEPUTY MIN IN THE PM'S DEPT DATO SRI HAJI KAMARUDDIN;
DEPUTY COMMUNICATIONS MIN DATUK WAN KADIR ISMAIL; DEP HOME
AFFAIRS MIN DATUK SAMAD IDRIS; JOHORE MENTERI BESAR DATO
OTHMAN SAAT; KEDAH MENTERI BESAR DATUK SYED AHMAD SHAHABUDDIN;
PERLIS MENTERI BESAR DATUK JAAFAR HASSAN; AND MP'S DATUK NIK
HASSAN, DATUK SYED NAHAR SHAHABBUDIN, AND HAJI SUHAIMI DATO
HAJI KAMARUDDIN.

3. EACH UMNO DIVISION (A DIVISION CONFORMS TO BOUNDARIES OF
A PARLIAMENTARY DISTRICT AND THERE ARE 114 DIVISIONS) HAS
RIGHT TO NOMINATE THREE CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT AND
TWENTY CANDIDATES FOR THE SUPREME COUNCIL, THEREFORE IT IS
NOT TERRIBLY HARD TO GET NOMINATED. ONE HUNDRED CANDIDATES IS,
HOWEVER, UNUSUALLY LARGE NUMBER IN LAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN
JUNE 1972 THERE WERE 53 CANDIDATES FOR THE SUPREME COUNCIL). PRIME
MINISTER RAZAK'S CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT ARE BELIEVED TO BE
GHAFAR BABA, TENGKU RAZALEIGH, AND DR. MAHATHIR, AND THEY
CERTAINLY LOOK LIKE THE FRONTRUNNERS AT THIS TIME.
NAMES OF OTHERS, SUCH AS GHAZALI SHAFIE AND DATUK HAMZAH,
APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN ENTERED AS COURTESY.
UNDERHILL

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